



Public Safety Interoperable Communications Presentation

***Joint Commission on Technology & Science
(JCOTS)***

October 5, 2004



A vertical graphic of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes, positioned on the left side of the slide.

Presentation Topics

- SAFECOM Overview
- Commonwealth of Virginia Strategic Plan for Communications Interoperability FY 2005-2007
- Governance Structure
- Statewide Interoperable Communications Conference
- Interoperability Website
- Accomplishments
- Next Steps



Established to serve as the umbrella program within the Federal government to help local, tribal, State and Federal public safety agencies improve public safety response through more effective and efficient interoperable wireless communications.

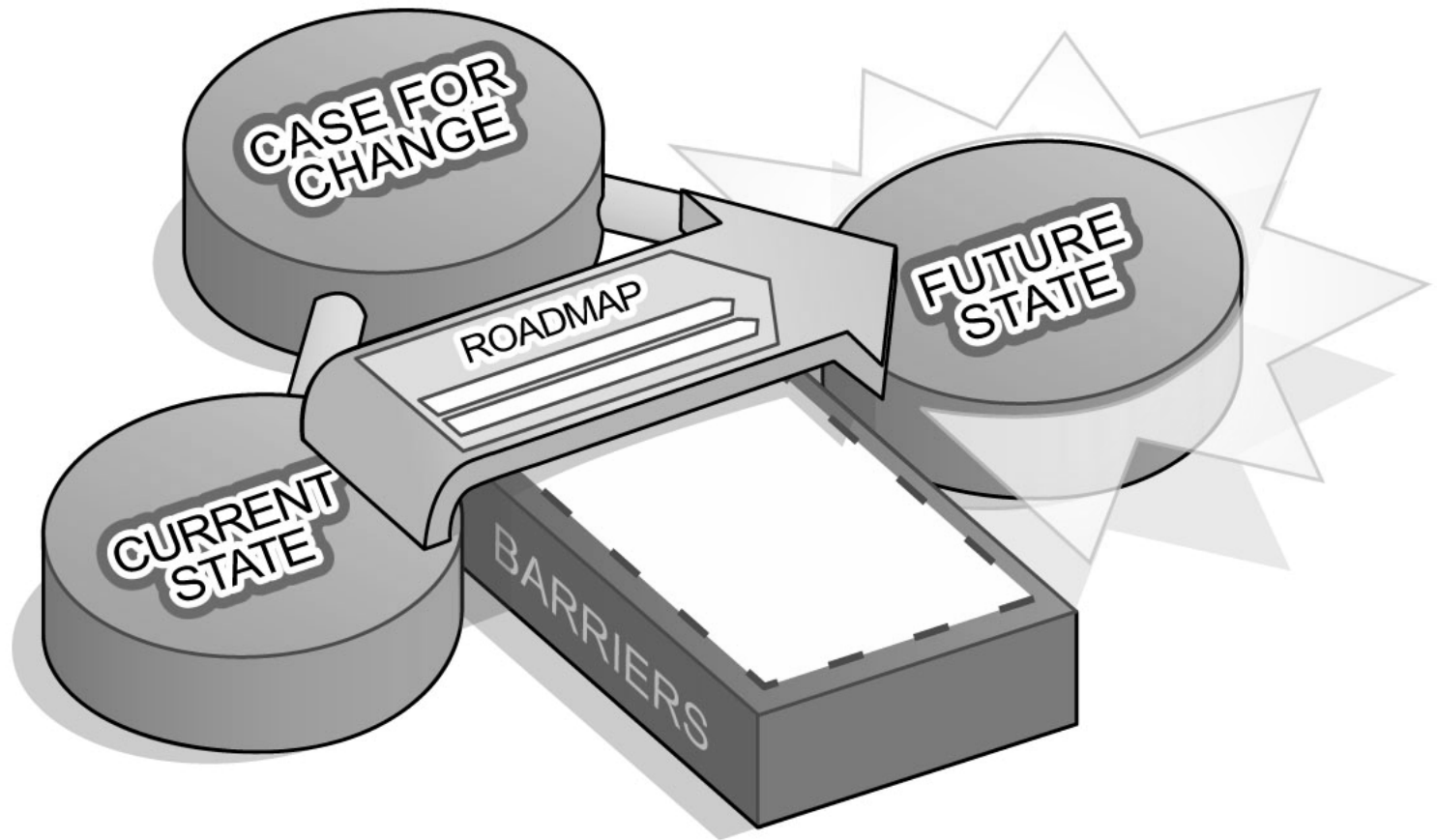
As a public safety practitioner driven program, SAFECOM is working with existing Federal communications initiatives and key public safety stakeholders to address the need to develop better technologies and processes for the cross-jurisdictional and cross-disciplinary coordination of existing systems and future networks.

SAFECOM has:

- 1. Developed standardized grant guidance for public safety interoperability equipment grants to local, tribal, and State organizations adopted by FEMA and COPS. Working for standardized grant guidance for all interoperability grants.**
- 2. Assisted Virginia with the development of the Statewide Interoperable Communications Strategic Plan and governance model.**
- 3. Developed best practices to assist other states in developing interoperability plans.**



Commonwealth of Virginia Strategic Plan for Statewide Communications Interoperability FY 2005-2007



A vertical graphic on the left side of the slide featuring a close-up, black and white image of the stars and stripes of the United States flag.

Strategic Planning Process

- Local first responder driven process
- Held 6 focus group sessions in rural and urban areas of the state
 - Wytheville
 - Newport News
 - Harrisonburg
 - Richmond
 - Manassas
 - Lynchburg
- 136 total focus group participants representing 39 localities and multiple state agencies
- Information from the focus groups was reviewed at the strategic planning session and used to develop the core components of the strategic plan

• PLANNING FOR STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY IN VIRGINIA •

• IMPROVING COMMUNICATIONS TO SAVE LIVES •

FOCUS GROUPS

- Wytheville
- Newport News
- Harrisonburg
- Richmond
- Manassas
- Lynchburg

OUTCOMES FOR FOCUS GROUPS

- Capture of local emergency responder perspectives on interoperable communications
- Shared understanding of interoperability issues specific to this region of VA
- Education and shared awareness of interoperability issues across stakeholder groups
- Attention paid to our commonalities as opposed to our differences

OUTPUTS

- Local Emergency Response and Interoperability
- CURRENT STATE
- NEEDS FOR CHANGE
- FUTURE STATE
- STRATEGIES
- BARRIERS

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

- Richmond

OUTCOMES

- Defined mission and vision
- Recommended key initiatives

GOALS

- Implementation of the Key Goals
- Establish communications interoperability as a high priority
- Establish the statewide use of a common language & coordinated communication protocols for emergency response
- Maximize interoperability capabilities by using existing communications systems & equipment & planning for future technology purchases
- Enhance the knowledge & proper use of existing & future communications equipment, systems, & resources

SAFECOM / Virginia
Partnership Established



Shared Principle

Locally driven
strategic planning

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, focusing on the stars and stripes.

Where We Are - Current State

- Lack of Priority
 - Inconsistent funding streams
 - Insufficient personnel resources allocated to drive collaboration between jurisdictions and disciplines
- Lack of Coordination
 - Lack of a common language
 - Inadequate coordination of standard operational procedures
- Lack of Lifecycle Planning
- Technical Barriers are impeding interoperability
- Inadequate Level of Training
- Numerous Statewide Mutual Aid Channels
 - SIRS
 - Fire Mutual Aid
 - EMS Mutual Aid
 - NPSPAC
 - Hospital Emergency Radio

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, focusing on the stars and stripes.

Where We Want to Be – Future State

- Interoperability as a High Priority
- Common Standards
 - Common Language or Clear text
 - Technical (e.g. P25)
 - Operational Standards (e.g. NIMS)
- Coordinated Approach to Lifecycle Planning
 - Planning, Purchasing, Distribution, Training, and Maintenance
- Extensive Training and Information Sharing

90% Coordination and 10% Technology – Working together we can achieve more!

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, with the stars and stripes visible.

How We Are Going to Get There – Goals

1. Establish communications interoperability as a high priority.
2. Expand statewide use of common language and coordinated communications protocols.
3. Increase interoperability capabilities and coordination by maximizing the use of existing communications systems and equipment and by planning for future technology purchases.
4. Enhance the knowledge and proper use of existing and future communications equipment, systems, and resources by providing frequent and routine training for public safety personnel.

90% Coordination and 10% Technology – Working together we can achieve more!

Governance Structure



A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a close-up, slightly blurred image of the stars and stripes of the United States flag.

Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinators Office (CICO)

- **Liaison with the Commonwealth Preparedness Working Group on communications interoperability support and funding efforts**
- **CICO will help establish Initiative Action Teams to accomplish tasks associated with each initiative outlined in the Strategic Plan**
- **Act as conduit between Initiative Action Teams, Advisory Committee, and Executive Committee members as appropriate**
- **Coordinate projects and initiatives across the Commonwealth as appropriate regarding public safety interoperable communications**
- **Plan, control and manage the task(s) to implement the strategic plan initiatives**
- **Monitor progress, challenges, and accomplishment made by the Initiative Action Teams**
- **Request resources from the Secretary of the Office of Public Safety and the Assistant for Commonwealth Preparedness as required**
- **Brief the status of the initiatives and tasks at the Advisory Committee and Executive Committee meetings**



First Responder Interoperability Executive Committee (FRIEC)

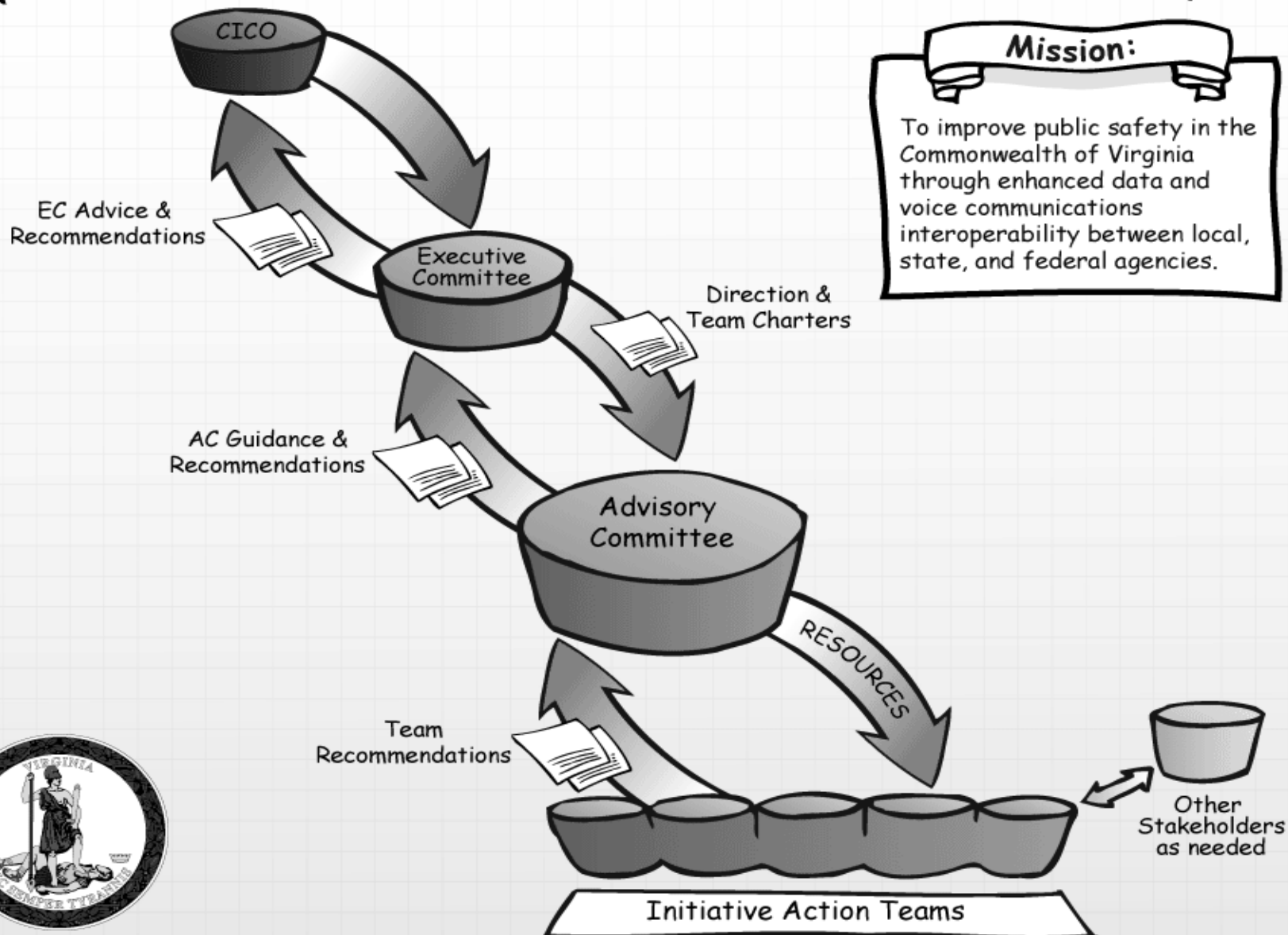
- **The Executive Committee is comprised of representation from the following organizations/associations:**
 - Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinator
 - Office of the Secretary of Public Safety
 - Office of Commonwealth Preparedness
 - VA Association of Chiefs of Police
 - VA Association of Counties
 - VA Association of Governmental EMS Administrators
 - VA Association of Public Safety Communication Officials
 - VA Fire Chiefs Association
 - VA Municipal League
 - VA Sheriffs' Association
- **The First Responder Interoperability Executive Committee members will:**
 - Approve the general direction of Virginia interoperability efforts, evaluate progress and approve changes in direction and scope for the overall strategy
 - Provide advice, feedback and support to the CICO
 - Ensure local and regional interoperability efforts are in alignment with the statewide strategic plan
 - Resolve issues requiring policy, procedural, or other business decisions as needed
 - Represent and advocate for interoperable communications at more senior levels of government and among member constituencies

Commonwealth Interoperability Coordination Office (CICO)

LOCALLY DRIVEN

Mission:

To improve public safety in the Commonwealth of Virginia through enhanced data and voice communications interoperability between local, state, and federal agencies.





Statewide Interoperability Conference

- Will be held on October 19-20, 2004 at the Holiday Inn (Koger Center) Richmond, Virginia.
- This will be an opportunity for 200 public safety responders to get together to discuss interoperable communications.
- There will be exhibitors in attendance that will be showcasing new technologies to address interoperability.
- Presentations will be given in the following areas:
 - **Statewide Interoperable Communication Strategic Plan Overview**
 - **STARS Overview**
 - **Interoperable Grants**
 - **NIMS Overview**
 - **Breakout Session Discussions**
- Registration will be conducted on line by going to www.interoperability.publicsafety.virginia.gov and clicking on the Interoperability Conference link.

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, focusing on the stars and stripes.

Interoperability Website Content

www.interoperability.publicsafety.virginia.gov

- Focus Group and Strategic Plan Session Reports
- Interoperability Grant Information
 - SAFECOM Guidelines
 - Current Grant Opportunities
- Communication Systems in Virginia
 - STARS
 - SIRS
 - NPSPAC
- Statewide Interoperable Communications Plan
- Interoperability Library
 - Articles
 - Presentations
 - News Releases
- Links of Interest

A vertical graphic of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes, positioned on the left side of the slide.

Accomplishments to Date

- The Commonwealth of Virginia Strategic Plan for Communications Interoperability has been developed and approval by the Governor.
- Purchased 8 ICRI Units for State Police to use to establish tactical interoperability in the 7 State Regions
- Established the First Responder Interoperability Executive Committee (FRIEC) as the governance structure to lead this effort.
 - Held first meeting on October 27th and:
 - Approved the Strategic Plan
 - Approved the Governance Structure
 - Elected a Chair - Dept. Chief Charles Warner
 - Elected a Vice Chair – Lt. Joe Ribeiro
- Established the interoperability website to share information about planning, references, grants, etc.
 - www.interoperability.publicsafety.virginia.gov
- The Statewide Interoperable Communications Conference is set for October 19-20 at the Koger Center Holiday Inn. Registration is free, you can register online from the interoperability website.

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, focusing on the stars and stripes.

Next Steps

- Establish the First Responder Interoperability Advisory Committee that will support the Executive Committee.
- Obtain funding to implement the initiatives contained in the strategic plan from the Commonwealth preparedness Working Group.
- Solicit applications, review and award approximately \$2.4 million for local interoperability grants.
 - **\$700,000 National Institute for Justice (NIJ) Interoperability Grant**
 - **\$1.7 million ODP Funds**
 - **Receive applications November 2004, review in December 2004 and award and distribute NLT January 2005**
- Launch a web-based survey to assess and document the public safety community's current perspective of and satisfaction with communications interoperability in the Commonwealth to determine the baseline for measuring success moving forward.

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, focusing on the stars and stripes.

For Additional Information Please Contact:

Chris Essid
Commonwealth Interoperability Coordinator
Office of the Secretary of Public Safety
(804) 225-3800
Chris.Essid@governor.virginia.gov